



Receipts and Expenditures

OF THE

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD,

For the Year ending February 20, 1868,

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Superintending School Committee.



DOVER, N. H.

LIBBEY & CO., PRINTERS—ENQUIRER OFFICE.

1868.



THE HISTORY OF THE

PROGRESS OF THE
ART OF PRINTING IN
ENGLAND

FROM THE FIRST
INTRODUCTION OF THE
ART INTO THIS COUNTRY

TO THE PRESENT
STATE OF THE ART

IN THE SEVENTEENTH
CENTURY

BY JOHN HENRY
COLLIER

1801

LONDON: PRINTED BY
JOHN HENRY COLLIER

EXPENDITURES.

Statement of amount paid each person in the following Departments, as per bills now filed in Selectmen's office for the financial year ending, February 20, 1868. Amount of Town Debt, and resources of the Town.

STATE TAX.

Peter Sanborn, State Treasurer	1,781 25
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COUNTY TAX.

Thomas Nute, County Treasurer.....	1,484 75
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SCHOOLS.

School District No. 1.....	97 50
“ “ 2.....	131 97
“ “ 3.....	50 59
“ “ 4.....	67 50
“ “ 5.....	73 14
“ “ 6.....	69 04
“ “ 7.....	47 78
“ “ 8.....	64 15
“ “ 9.....	143 86
“ “ 10.....	51 88
“ “ 11.....	29 98

\$827 39

SALARIES.

E. Wadleigh, Treasurer	5 00
“ “ Selectman	67 60
William A. Maleham Selectman	76 00
James McN. Cook “	28 00
Asa Brown, Town Clerk.....	18 50
Nathaniel Barker, School Com.....	26 00
Isaac T. Clark, Collector.....	45 00
Board of Assessors.....	122 00
“ Auditors.....	4 00

\$392 10

PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

George Wadleigh, printing Accounts..	55 00
D. Lothrop & Co., paper.....	3 38
E. C. Eastman Col. Book.....	1 55
E. J. Lane, Invoice Books and Record Books	39 24
B. W. Sanbern, Stationery.....	7 81
Libbey and Co., printing Check list....	5 00
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	\$111 98

MINISTERIAL FUND.

W. H. Pike.....	17 91
M. Perkins	23 88
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	\$41 79

TOWN DEBT.

NOTES PAID.

D. S. Burley	100 00
P. Burley.....	200 00
J. A. Chesley.....	33 21
S. A. Chesley.....	200 00
T. Cloutman	25 00
J. Doyle.....	200 00
E. Fogg.....	500 00
D. Gilman	200 00
J. P. Gilman	200 00
Frank Hobbs.....	500 00
G. F. Hobbs	700 00
C. Jones.....	500 00
R. Moulton	40 00
F. Peters	149 10
J. Pike.....	700 00
R. Richards.....	50 00
E. Townsend.....	200 00
W. E. Tucker.....	100 00
M. Weeks	60 00
N. J. Weeks.....	48 00
F. J. Wiggin	153 00
S. M. Wiggin.....	25 00
M. Allen	200 00
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	\$5,083 31

INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

INTEREST PAID.

Town Notes of sundry dates.....	\$1,671 26
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LIQUOR ACCOUNT.

U. S. Government for Tax.....	22 92
John I. Baker for Liquor.....	148 12
Canney's Express for freight.....	2 35
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	\$173 39

DOG TAX FUND.

John Paul, 1 sheep killed by dogs	4 00
A. S. Weeks 1 " " "	4 00
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	\$8 00

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

REPAIRS OF TOWN HOUSE.

T. N. Seward, shingles.....	35 00
S. H. Smith, lumber.....	1 00
J. W. Sanborn, brick.....	3 00
G. Allen, masonry	5 06
I. T. Clark, labor	6 00
W. A. Maleham, labor	12 00
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	\$62 06

REPAIRS OF TOWN POUND.

W. A. Maleham, labor.....	13 00
" " gate.....	2 00
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	\$15 00

WATERING TROUGHS.

Paid the following persons each, three dollars :

John Gilman, John W. Mathes, Thos. J. Dearborn, T. N. Seward.....	\$12 00
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TOWN PAUPER DEPARTMENT.

For support of Town Paupers	\$1,461 12
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of the above sum two hundred and sixty one dollars and forty-eight cents were for bills prior to Feb. 20, 1867.

COUNTY PAUPERS.

For support of County Paupers..... \$501 85

TOWN PAUPERS.

The following persons have been assisted the
past year.....

Nathaniel Burbank

Daniel Quimby.....

Charles Kimball and family

Charles Bickford

Widow Betsy Dame

“ Nancy Edgerly

“ Sally Philbrick.....

Louisa Nutter

Abba Wentworth

Mary Wentworth

Harriet S. Cook

Roxanna Page.....

Albert Jennes's Family.....

Martha Waldron and Child

Child of Benj. Allen

COUNTY PAUPERS.

Joseph Copp

Moses Copp.....

Wm. Copp

Ann Connolly

Hadassah Seavey

HIGHWAYS.

Amount paid the several Districts for breaking

roads, winter 1866-7..... 997 83

repairing roads and bridges..... 226 19

HORN'S MILL ROAD.

County Commissioner's bill..... 92 18

Wheeler & Hall's " 42 50

Frank Hobbs " 68 14

" " for money paid out 47 00

J. W. Sanborn's bill 3 00

W. A. Maleham " 4 17

\$256 99

WIDENING AND STRAIGHTENING ROADS.

E. Wadleigh, for copying petitions and notifying land owners, and four days on road, on Moses Perkins and als petition to lay out highway.....	14 50
M. B. Smith, Surveyor.....	12 00
W. A. Maleham, 4 days on road	8 00
James McN Cook 4 " "	8 00
	<hr/>
	\$42 50
Ira Miller, damage to horse and wagon, by a defect in the bridge at the foot of the Haines Hill	\$25 00

DUE THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ON NOTES.

Hannah J. Abbott	991 77
Jacob S. Adams	586 65
James O. Applebee.....	120 53
John F. Berry.....	405 37
Abby P. Bennett	457 03
Lydia Burley.....	872 42
Daniel Cloutman.....	127 38
Thomas Cloutman.....	100 50
Augustine Conant	5,000 00
Jacob A. Chesley.....	66 79
Almira B. Cook	441 40
Emily A. Cook.....	426 96
Wm. R. Cook.....	149 88
Amasa Copp	742 90
John Clark.....	706 39
Burrows Drew	233 20
Mahala Durell.....	382 28
Mary Garland.....	64 32
Jonathan Gage	207 01
Lydia Gilman	478 52
David Grant	223 15

Abby G. Hutchins.....	380 03
Betsy Hutchins	251 40
Nancy P. Hutchins.....	71 40
Susan A. Hutchins	824 01
Elijah Horn.....	502 00
Martha B. Horn.....	774 82
Frank Hobbs	900 00
Sarah Kimball.....	280 11
Harrison Libby.....	1,264 85
T. W. Lyford	821 60
Joseph Morrill	749 19
Harriet A. Maleham	542 25
Joseph Maleham	115 91
Armine D. Paul	500 00
John Paul	305 10
Hiram Paul.....	305 00
Charles W. Perkins.....	1078 33
Z. S. Perkins	674 73
Sarah A. Quimby.....	114 91
Elisha Rollins.....	700 00
Annie H. Sawyer.....	1138 20
Alvah H. Sawyer.....	100 00
Robert W. Sawyer	422 04
William Sawyer.....	100 00
Savina G. Tibbets	709 85
Nathan J. Weeks.....	42 12
Sally M. Wiggin	1,064 60
John E. Witham	439 90
Sally C. Weeks	184 00
Otis Wiswall	228 25
Algernon S. Weeks.....	52 55
Joseph B. Wiggin.....	1,411 40
Samuel Yeaton.....	212 00
Due Isaac T. Clark when he settles his list of Taxes for 1867	50 00
Due the several School Districts for School Money for 1867	46 00

Due the several religious societies for interest on the Ministerial fund	47 76
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\$30,188 76

RESOURCES.

Due from Isaac T. Clark on tax list for 1863	2 75
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Due from I. T. Clark on tax list for 1864	13 47
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“ “ “ “ 1865	50 21
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“ “ “ “ 1866	150 00
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“ “ “ “ 1867	1,400 00
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Due from County of Carroll for sup- port of County Paupers.....	165 11
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U. S. Government for bounties.....	3,442 00
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Owners Copp Mill in part for repairing bridge	35 00
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In hands of Liquor Agent.....	63 39
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“ “ Treasurer.....	965 54
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\$6,287 47

Total amount of outstanding demands against the town, to the date of this report is thirty thousand one hundred and eighty-eight dollars and seventy-six cents...	30,188 76
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There remains due in the collector's list and hands of the Treasurer and other sources, the whole amounting to six thousand two hundred and eighty-seven dol- lars and forty-seven cents	6,287 47
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Leaving a balance against the town (ex- clusive of Ministerial and School Fund) of	23,901 29
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A vote was passed at the last annual meeting to pay Mark Allen, John Doyle and Edward Townsend, each two hundred dollars and interest, for bounty claimed by them, which has been paid by the Treasurer, amounting to seven hundred and thirteen dollars and nine cents—this amount was not reported as indebtedness of the town in the last report.

TOWN OF WAKEFIELD IN ACCOUNT

Dr.

To paid incidental expenses.....	88 81
“ support of town poor.....	1,461 12
“ “ county poor.....	501 85
“ on account of town debt	5,083 31
“ Highways and bridges.....	1,548 51
“ County tax.....	1,484 75
“ State tax	1,781 25
“ Schools.....	827 39
“ Salaries.....	392 10
“ Printing	111 98
“ Interest.....	1,671 26
“ Liquor Agency	173 39
“ Ministerial Fund.....	41 79
“ Dog Tax fund	8 00
“ Abatements	507 38
“ Outstanding on collectors list for 1867.....	1,400 00
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	\$17,082 89
To Bal. Cash in Treas'y, Feb. 20, 1868.	965 54
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	\$18,048 43

WITH THE SELECTMEN FOR THE YEAR 1867-8

	Cr.
By balance from Treasurer of last year	885 66
proceeds of Town Notes	3,888 69
" " of State Literary fund....	49 80
" " " Savings Banks...	80 82
" " " U. S. Bounties...	418 00
" " County of Carroll.....	417 89
By Wm. Sawyer interest on surplus revenue fund.....	28 74
Isaac T. Clark Collector 1864	40 25
" " " 1865	249 79
" " " 1866	2,200 00
Samuel W. Roberts, Liquor Agent	110 00
J. Mc N. Cook.....	1 00
S. H. Smith.....	5 00
Tax list of 1867	9,672 79
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	\$18 048 43

1868

Feb. 20, By Balance 965 54

ELIJAH WADLEIGH,	} Selectmen of Wakefield.
W. A. MALEHAM,	
JAMES Mc N. COOK,	

WAKEFIELD, February 20, 1868.

The undersigned Auditors of Accounts certify that we have examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, and find the same correctly cast and properly vouched.

ALVAH H. SAWYER,	} Auditors.
ISAAC N. FELLOWS.	

REPORT.

To the Citizens of the Town of Wakefield:—

The Annual Report of the Superintending School Committee is respectfully submitted.

It is thought by those who have been careful observers of the signs of the times, that the past year has been a year of unexampled prosperity to the progress of education ; that the obligation of the State to provide the means of moral and intellectual cultivation for the whole mass of its subjects, is felt more and more, not only in our own country, but throughout the world. In the progress of various improvements, an impulse has been awakened which demands that all the rising generation shall be taught the elements of useful knowledge. Even in countries where a tyrannical government, and a tyrannical church hierarchy, that is more oppressive, have long raised up barriers against the general diffusion of knowledge, this impulse can no longer be resisted. In Austria, twenty-five Romish bishops attempted to resist the light, and represented scientific instruction, given without respect to creed, as having a tendency to bring religion and morality into contempt. The charge was indignantly repudiated, and their perversity received a sharp reproof from the Emperor. The ruling purpose of their system is the same everywhere, though it may be disguised. It would take the Bible from our primary schools. Russia has been engaged in the noble work of providing schools for the whole mass of her subjects that have so long been held in serfdom. Japan, with a wiser policy than that which imports iron-clads to strengthen the armaments of war, has imported American school-books.

In our own country the blessings conferred by our system of free schools, have been extended to larger numbers than ever before. The work that was so successfully commenced among the Freedmen, during the previous year, has been carried forward with encouraging success. The number of schools reported by the Freedmen's Bureau

is 2,207, with 2,442 teachers, of whom 699 are colored persons. The number of scholars is 130,735. The Freedmen own 391 school-houses, and support wholly or in part 1,055 of the schools. The average amount paid monthly by them for tuition is \$14,555. There are other commissions sustained by voluntary contributions, of which we have no statistics. But this good work is not limited to the freedmen, it is extended to the white race, a large class of whom, in some localities are found quite as destitute of instruction, and in as absolute need of schools.

Only a partial survey of the work, that has been accomplished by so many agencies during the year, cannot fail to cheer the heart of the philanthropist; but it contains the promise of greater blessings. This widely extended interest in the diffusion of knowledge, which involves the principles of civil and religious freedom, betokens a brighter era in the history of the race, when the intellectual and moral darkness of ages shall be dispersed.

But we are more immediately interested in a survey of the work that has been accomplished by teachers and agents within our own limited sphere. As servants of the town they are required to render some strict account. To expect a very marked progress in the operations of the schools, without any additional appropriation for their support, when their incidental expenses are so increased, would be to demand "the brick without the straw." But the amount provided by the town has been appropriated, and we think with some good results.

DISTRICT NO. 1.

Summer Term.—Length 8 weeks; whole number of scholars 17; average attendance 15; instances of tardiness 5; of dismissal 30.

Teacher, MISS N. C. BLAKE.—A new teacher. The discipline and improvement of the school were good.

Winter Term.—Length 9 weeks; whole number of scholars 31; average attendance 25; instances of tardiness 11; not absent one-half day 4.

Teacher, MR. DAVID E. D. FROST.—This teacher has had years of experience in this service, and had taught one term before in this district with good success. At the closing examination, there was evidence that the active and untiring efforts of the teacher had produced good results. But in a faithful report of his school, he testifies, "that although most of the pupils are not difficult to govern, yet under existing circumstances, what he considers good order is out of the question; that some scholars are suffered to use pro

fane and obscene language at home!! and that, [with some exceptions, scholars are wanting in industry, and are inclined to get along too fast; and, "although he has received kind treatment in the district, he has not received one solitary visit from parents during the term."

DISTRICT No. 2.

Summer Term.—Length 9 weeks; whole number of scholars 20; average attendance 17; instances of tardiness 11; of dismissal 5; not absent one-half day 4.

Teacher, Miss A. P. SMITH.—A good teacher who is faithful and accurate in communicating instruction. In consequence of some mistake about the notice, the school was not visited at its close.

Winter Term.—Length, 13 weeks; whole number of scholars 24; average attendance 18; instances of tardiness 147; of dismissal 37; not absent one-half day 1.

Teacher, Miss M. C. PAUL.—A well qualified teacher. who made her first trial, as assistant in the High School. She has discharged her duty in this school with very good success. An unusual number of marks for tardiness we find accredited to a few individuals, who had not far to travel.

DISTRICT No 3.

One Term.—Length 12 1-2 weeks; whole number of scholars 14; average attendance 12; instances of tardiness 106; of dismissal 20.

Teacher, Miss NELLIE C. BLAKE.—At the commencement of the term there were indications of a prosperous school. It closed sooner than the time specified in the notice, and for this reason was not examined at its close. We have been assured that the teacher gave general satisfaction.

DISTRICT No. 4.

One Term.—Length 15 weeks; whole number of scholars 15; average attendance 12; instances of tardiness 112; of dismissal 34.

Teacher Miss C. J. MALEHAM.—The teacher's work was well performed, and the progress of the school very commendable. A new school-house would add much to the interest and comfort of the teacher and scholars, and be an honor to the district.

DISTRICT No 5.

One term.—Length 14 weeks; whole number of scholars, 30; average attendance, 22; instances of tardiness, 16; of dismissal, 4.

Teacher, Miss L. H. GALE. Miss Gale was the well accredited teacher of this school during both terms of last year. The awakened interest of the school has been sustained. We feel assured that the parents and friends who were present at the closing examination were highly gratified with the evidence that they had had a profitable school. In no other school have we witnessed such marked improvement in the reading exercises. In all the other exercises there was evidence that the instruction had been thorough.

Will not the District soon provide a house that will be more pleasant and convenient?

DISTRICT NO. 6.

Summer Term.—Length 6 weeks; whole number of scholars, 18; average attendance, 16; instances of tardiness, 19; of dismissal, 9; not absent one half day, 11. Teacher, Miss M. A. Wentworth. The school was short, but under the care of an experienced teacher, who ever manifests a deep interest in the welfare of her pupils, it was made profitable. In all the different studies, the attention of scholars was directed to first principles. The improvement good.

Winter Term.—Length —; whole number of scholars 27; average attendance, 23; instances of tardiness, 8; of dismissal 4; not absent, one half day; 8.

Teacher, Miss A. P. Smith.—This school is now in active operation. Miss Smith has taught several schools in town with good success. She gives instruction with precision, and faithful care, and we feel assured that there will be evidence of good improvement at the close of the term.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

Summer Term.—Length 6 weeks; whole number of scholars 27; average attendance 22; instances of tardiness 29; of dismissal 3; not absent one half day 10.

Winter Term.—Length, 6 1-3 weeks; whole number of scholars 30; average attendance 25; instances of tardiness 9; of dismissal 2; not absent one half day 4.

Teacher of both terms, Miss C. E. DAVIS.—This teacher awakened and sustained an active interest in her school. The good results were manifest at the close of both terms. The school is to be continued several weeks, by private tuition, under the same teacher.

DISTRICT NO. 8.

Summer Term.—Length 7 weeks; whole number of scholars 9; average attendance 8; instances of tardiness 4; not absent one-half day 4.

Teacher, MISS L. A. HILL,—a young teacher. Her success was very good.

Winter Term.—Length 8 weeks; whole number of scholars 17; average attendance 14; instances of tardiness 44; not absent one-half day 3.

Teacher, MR. F. S. WEEKS.—A young teacher, but well qualified, and faithful in the discharge of his duty. The average progress of the school was good.

DISTRICT NO. 9.

Summer Term.—First division, length 5 weeks, whole number of scholars 20; average attendance 15; instances of tardiness 47; not absent one-half day 4; Teacher MISS A. E. SMITH.

Second division, length 5 weeks; whole number of scholars 34; average attendance 29; instance of tardiness 18; of dismissal 12; not absent one-half day 8. Teacher, MISS A. M. SMITH.

These schools, organized under a new arrangement, were very short, but performed their operations with some good results. The second division was continued in successful operation, for several weeks, by private tuition, under the same teacher.

Winter Term.—Length 6 weeks; whole number of scholars 65; average attendance 54; not absent one-half day 24. Teacher, MR. E. P. HODSDON.

At the closing examination, there was evidence of general good improvement. Mr. Hodsdon left the school before the term was finished, on account of other engagements. It was continued two weeks under the instruction of Mr. E. W. JENKINS. It is now in successful operation, under his care, sustained by private tuition. This district, with their accustomed liberality, have finished a room in the second story of the schoolhouse, that will be very pleasant and convenient for the primary department of the school. When it is furnished with the necessary fixtures we trust, that the experiment that was partially made during the summer term, will be more fully tested. We think the school should be graded, with a reference to the actual attainments of the pupils, not to their age, or to their advancement to a higher class, or a larger book. This will have a tendency to awaken a laudable ambition, which, under proper control, will have a good

result. This school contains some good scholars. Let the parents and citizens, with continued liberality, and united counsels, sustain its operations under good discipline, and faithful instruction, and it will be an honor to the district, and a blessing to the rising generation.

DISTRICT NO. 10.

Summer Term.—Length 4 weeks ; whole number of scholars 11 ; average attendance 10 ; instances of tardiness 3 ; of dismissal 9. The term was so short as hardly to afford a young teacher a fair experiment. It was made with a good measure of success. Teacher, Miss H. M. Tebbets.

Winter term.—Length 6 weeks ; whole number of scholars 13 ; average attendance 12 ; instances of tardiness 42 ; number not absent one half day 6. Teacher Mr. F. B. Shorey. The interest of the school was sustained by the active and diligent efforts of a new teacher, and with good results. No other school has a better record for constant attendance during both terms. The scholars generally are disposed to make good improvement of their short schools but their school-house is neither comfortable nor convenient.

DISTRICT NO. 11.

One Term.—Length 9 weeks ; whole number of scholars 15 ; average attendance 11 ; instances of tardiness 44. Teacher, Miss H. A. HOBBS.—This school was subjected to the interruption of two removals. Under the care of a young teacher it made all the improvement that could be reasonably expected.

This district, with a commendable liberality have erected a nice house during the year, at an expense of about \$600. In consequence of unexpected interruptions, it could not be finished in season for the winter term.

The High School reported last year has been in successful operation during two terms.

Spring Term. Whole number of scholars 78. Fall term whole number of scholars 59. Teacher MR. E P. HODSDON. Aassistants, Miss H. N. HOBBS, Miss M. C. PAUL.

The Spring term of a private school, in district No 2 willcommerce Feb. 26, under the instruction of Miss H. N. Hobbs. We hope that scholars from other districts will secure a share in its privileges,

Whole number of scholars connected with the schools 287. The town is sustaining a gradual loss ; in 1860 the whole number was 361, The teachers of our schools have discharged their duty generally with a good measure of fi-

delity. We have had some earnest teachers, who have kept excellent schools. In the average results, we think there has been an improved state of discipline, and an increasing regard to thorough instruction in first principles. It will be seen that the terms in most of the schools are still very short; but in view of present circumstances, we will abate the claim for any larger appropriation from the town. The citizens, who cultivate their fields amid the granite hills, bear heavy burdens; they must practice economy "to make the two ends meet."

We can almost find an apology for parents who never visit their schools, for we know something about their constant toil and care; but when so many artful inventions are found out to meet other demands, and increase the amount of wealth, we think the schools ought to receive a due share of patronage. If retrenchments must be made anywhere, let them not be made in the schools. They might be made in some things that are positively injurious to the benefit of all concerned. Enough is squandered every year with a demoralizing influence, to give to all the schools an adequate support. The money that is appropriated to provide good school-houses, and support prosperous schools, is like the "charity that is twice blest," for it increases the material wealth of the town.

Your committee has recommended Quackenbos' grammars, and Cornell's geographies, to take the place of the books that have been used in the schools for a course of years. By the aid of teachers they have been introduced into most of the winter schools, with the least possible expense, at exchange prices. It is hoped that this change will be fully made during the summer terms. It is thought that the best interests of the schools will soon require an exchange of the arithmetics now in use for a new series, that will contain some instruction in the "Metric system of Weights and Measures," which has been adopted by our government. This change, we trust, will not be recommended without due care. The new grammar and geography, so far as tested, have been received with favor, and have awakened a new interest in these studies, in some schools. Larger numbers ought to pursue the study of geography. We think that more attention ought also to be given to writing. There are many scholars who will have no other opportunity for learning to write but that afforded them while connected with the district school. The study of history has been pursued with interest in a few schools. It has just claims to a larger share of attention.

We are thankful that so much has already been accomplished ; but there is work yet to be done in the schools. With what awakened zeal ought it to be pursued. We have welcomed to this responsible work, during the year, an unusual number of young teachers, and we have been happy to find them pursuing it generally with successful interest. There is an obligation binding on them and all other teachers, to improve their qualifications in the best possible manner. Every part of the teacher's work should be reviewed. It is sometimes found, that those, who are qualified to teach the National Arithmetic and Algebra, are not the most successful in teaching the sounds of the letters, and the art of reading correctly. What are denominated the lowest branches, and, for this reason, too often receive but a small share of attention, are in reality the most important branches. If ever accurate and skilful instruction should be required, it is at the commencement of the course. Some youthful minds are like the choice plants, that can be reared successfully only by skilful hands. Teachers must be held responsible in such a work. It commences at the foundation of structures, which, when perfected, will be more beautiful than any works of art. They need good attainments ; not only intellectual endowments, but moral virtues, a conscious integrity and spirit, that can say, "I love God and every little child." We feel assured that our teachers generally, have communicated some moral instruction, so far as it has respect to an example of upright integrity, and the prescribed exercise of reading daily a lesson in the Bible,—some have sought opportunities to cultivate moral feelings ; but how many, during their short term of service, have made any direct effort to impart such instruction ? We are admonished of the great importance of a larger amount of moral and religious instruction in the education of youth, by lessons of experience, and by "every day's report of wrong and outrage."

It is expected that some arrangements will be made by the agency of the State Superintendent of public schools, to establish Normal Schools, or a teacher's department in some of the best academies in the state, in which teachers will have an opportunity to receive instruction with a special reference to their work. It should never be forgotten that parents sustain relations to the schools of peculiar interest. It is their duty to see that their children are punctual and constant in their attendance. Had this duty been faithfully discharged there would not be so many marks for tardiness and absence, as are found on some of the registers. And

if parents may hold their teacher responsible for every error in his manner of communicating instruction, or in his mode of discipline,—for every impropriety of language, and deportment, that may mar the symmetry of character, to which they would have their children trained, then is it their duty to seek an acquaintance with the teacher, and ever, in case of dissatisfaction, to ask an explanation before uttering a complaint. By pursuing this course, they might oftener secure the blessing of the peacemaker, and prevent disastrous results. More frequent visits at the school-room, by mothers, even if they must be short visits, and a few kind words uttered for the encouragement of the teacher to whom such precious interests are entrusted, will be well repaid. But we must still claim for the schools the co-operation, and support of all good citizens. They are accomplishing a work, for which no other agency has been provided. The higher institutions of learning promote the great interests for which they were established. We cannot estimate their importance. They are the crowning glory of the whole system; but with all their munificent endowments they would fail of accomplishing their work most effectively for the good of all without the aid of the district schools, from which they receive their supplies. They are established on a lower grade, and perform a humbler service, but they are not of less importance. They belong to the people.

The system by which they are sustained was originated by men who believed in the Bible, and the Christian Sabbath. In laying the foundation for a great and prosperous nation, they erected first a house for religious worship, and next a schoolhouse. The history of New England furnishes a full attestation of their wisdom and benevolence. In all the different states to which the beneficial results of this system has been extended, it has been connected with the institutions of the protestant religion, without respect to any sectarian creeds. In this connection, however perfected, it will, we trust, be extended throughout our nation, and in due time to the ends of the earth.

In the wonderful providence of God the way has been set open, in which the system of free schools can be extended and proffer its blessings to every class of citizens, without regard to any distinction of wealth or station, of race or color. It is a noble work in which a multitude of benevolent hearts, and an army of faithful teachers, have enlisted. It is a work in which opposition must be encountered, and sacrifices must be made; but it is attended with very encouraging success.

At the present crisis of our nation, when such antagonistic forces are in operation, amid a conflict of minds,—when problems must be solved in the councils of the nation, that will put the wisdom of statesmen on trial,—when, too, amidst so much undue political excitement, there are agencies operating so fearfully for evil, what other enterprise is more worthy of regard than that by which the great interests of education are sustained? Christian patriots who carry forward this enterprise with such animated interest, are sustained with unshaken confidence in God, who holds the destinies of nations. With such a reliance they are not dismayed in the evil hour, but remembering the past, they have hope for the future. And shall they ever be regarded as seeking some selfish or party aims?

In a work in which knowledge is diffused, and the principles of morality and religion are inculcated, and intelligent minds are prepared to meet the responsibilities they must soon sustain, there is room for higher motives.

Is there any work of man that may be called benevolent and godlike? Let the agencies by which this work is performed be everywhere multiplied, and hasten it forward, diffusing light and truth, and salvation, and the angry tumults of the nation shall cease. With what earnest purpose and renewed zeal ought citizens in every community to bear their part in a work of such interest?

They may do it in the assured belief that the work performed in this good enterprise, will constitute an important part in the instrumentalities by which the purpose of God will be accomplished in the perpetuity of the government of our nation.

N. BARKER, S. S. Committee of Wakefield,
Wakefield, Feb. 22, 1868.



